

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 COME-00 L-03 IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-07

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DRAFTED BY OES/ENP:LGRANT:L/OES:JUBAILLY

APPROVED BY OES/ENP:LGRANT

EA/J - MR. SHERMAN (PHONE)

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NOAA - MR. BLATT(PHONE)(INFO)

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----- 121472

P 052335Z NOV 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:JA, SENV

SUBJECT: WHALING IN U.S. FISHERY CONSERVATION ZONE

1. ASSUME AMB. RIDGWAY IS CARRYING LETTER OF OCT. 29 FROM DR. ROBERT WHITE, ADMINISTRATOR OF NOAA, GIVING COMMERCE'S RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO POSITION USG SHOULD TAKE DURING NEGOTIATION OF INTERNATIONAL FISHERY AGREEMENTS CONCERNING WHALING WITHIN 200 MILES OF THE UNITED STATES.

2. DEPARTMENT GENERALLY CONCURS WITH DR. WHITE'S LETTER.

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HOWEVER, L WOULD WISH TO REVIEW POSITION IN THE EVENT THAT

PROHIBITION OF WHALING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH IWC QUOTAS, IN U.S. FISHERY CONSERVATION ZONE WERE TO RESULT IN BREAKDOWN OF IWC AND EFFECT OF SUCH BREAKDOWN WOULD BE DESTRUCTION OF MORE WHALES THAN IF LIMITED WHALING ALLOWED IN ZONE. THIS POSITION BASED ON CLEAR INTENT OF ACT TO PROTECT AND CONSERVE MARINE MAMMALS TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE AND FACT THAT ACT ENVISAGES ACCOMMODATION OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS TO AVOID SITUATION WHERE CONSERVATION OF MARINE MAMMALS WOULD BE IMPAIRED RATHER THAN ADVANCED BY PROVISIONS OF THE ACT.

3. FYI: FOLLOWING IS PROVIDED AS BACKGROUND FOR DELEGATION'S USE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH JAPANESE: (A) WE HOPE TO

WORK WITHIN IWC TO ASSURE THAT DEVELOPING NEW CIRCUMSTANCES ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR FUTURE SEASONS. (B) BEFORE IWC MEETING NEXT JUNE, WE HOPE TO HAVE DATA AS TO JAPANESE CATCH IF ANY WITHIN U.S. 200 MILE ZONE, THEIR VIEWS AS TO WHETHER AND TO WHAT EXTENT EXTENSION OF U.S. FISHERY ZONE WILL AFFECT THEIR WHALING OPERATIONS UNDER IWC, AND WHAT EFFECT MIGHT BE ANTICIPATED FROM SIMILAR ACTIONS BY OTHER IWC MEMBERS. WE HOPE TO ENGAGE IN EXTENDED DIALOGUE WITHIN NORMAL IWC CHANNELS TO EXPLORE AND COPE WITH ISSUE, TO CONSIDER AND HOPEFULLY TO MITIGATE ANY ADVERSE JAPANESE AND SOVIET REACTIONS. (C) OPTIMAL OUTCOME FROM U.S. POINT OF VIEW WOULD OF COURSE BE TO ACHIEVE PROHIBITION ON WHALING WITHIN OUR ZONE, BUT LEAVE IWC IN PLACE BEYOND SINCE AT PRESENT TIME THERE SEEMS TO BE NO FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO IWC FOR PROTECTING WHALE STOCKS BEYOND THE ZONE. ASSESSMENT AS TO NEGOTIABILITY OF THIS APPROACH WITH THE JAPANESE WOULD BE VERY USEFUL IN FUTURE IWC DELIBERATIONS. KISSINGER

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